

Ransom Canyon City Council Meeting Minutes
Regular Meeting – March 14, 2017
Ransom Canyon Fire Department, 1 Ridge Road

1. Call to Order/Silent Meditation

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Robert Englund. Council members present were Mayor Robert Englund, Mayor Pro Tem, Jana Trew, Councilman Lyle Way, Councilman Brandt Underwood, and Councilman Terry Waldren. Councilman John Schmersey was absent. A moment of silent meditation followed.

2. Oath of Office

Judge Gary Bellair administered the oath of office to Terry Waldren who was appointed as an Alderman to replace Billy Williams. Bellair handed Terry Waldren an official certificate.

3. The Minutes

The minutes of the Regular Meeting, February 14, 2017, were approved on a motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Jana Trew, seconded by Councilman Brandt Underwood; motion carried unanimously.

4. The Financials

Councilman Lyle Way asked a question in regards to the costs charged by Parkhill, Smith, and Cooper. These costs are related to the development of a site plan for the new city hall. The financial reports, the February 2017 claims and demands, and the Financial Investment Report were approved on a motion made by Councilman Brandt Underwood, seconded by Councilman Lyle Way; motion carried unanimously.

5. Variance for a Two-Story Home

There is a variance request from residents, Jeremy and Maleia Torres, to add a second level to their current home to provide much needed room for their growing family. The variance was approved on a motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Jana Trew, seconded by Councilman Brandt Underwood; motion carried unanimously.

6. Variance for a Home to Face Mescalero Road, Against the Deed Restriction

Property owners, Michael and Dorinda Cooper, are constructing a new home, and they would like the City Council to approve a variance that allows the construction of their new corner house which would face Mescalero Road rather than Arapaho Road, as required by deed restriction. Michael Cooper spoke to the City Council to convince the Council to allow the variance. Six residents are in opposition to the current construction plan. John Sims, City Attorney, advised the residents to visit with all of the residents to discuss the plans to arrive at a good solution for their construction. Sims stated that the

citizens could still file a lawsuit against the Cooper's even if the City Council grants a variance; therefore, it is best that all citizens are in agreement of the construction to take place. On a motion by Councilman Lyle Way, seconded by Terry Waldren; the City Council postponed the variance for the Cooper's for a later date. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Resolution 17-0314 Regarding Property Caps

The City Council passed a resolution against Senate Bill 2 which calls to lower the property tax rollback rate for entities from eight percent to four percent, and it also triggers cities to have an election. Although the City Council is against raising taxes for the citizens of the Town of Ransom Canyon, their belief is that the Legislature should not remove local control from Texas cities to determine their own needs for their communities. The current rate in Ransom Canyon is .65929 per \$100 valuation of taxable value and has remained the same for approximately ten years. Elena Quintanilla, City Administrator, reported that the rate in Idalou is .6081170 and .53802 for the City of Lubbock. The Mayor reminded the citizens that other cities heavily rely on sales taxes for revenue, while Ransom Canyon relies on its property tax to maintain the city operations. He also mentioned that during his tenure on the City Council, taxes have remained low, and that the City Council has done a great job in saving money to build the much needed infrastructure. The resolution was approved on a motion made by Councilman Brandt Underwood, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Jana Trew; motion carried unanimously.

8. Election Items Regarding the Election on May 6, 2017

The following were unanimously approved on a motion made by Councilman Brandt Underwood, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Jana Trew:

1. Exhibit A (the Joint Early Voting Schedule) and April 25, 2017 & May 2, 2017 as the 12-hour days of Early Voting
2. Exhibit B, Election Day Vote Centers
3. Election Day Vote Centers, Supervisors and Rovers.

The motion carried unanimously.

9. Ordinance No. 17-00314 Approving the Atmos 2016 Rate Review Mechanism

The City Council approved a negotiated Ordinance between the Atmos West Texas Cities ("WTX Cities) and Atmos Energy Corp., West Texas Division regarding the company's 2016 Rate Review Mechanism ("RRM") Filing, declaring existing rates to be unreasonable; adopting tariffs that reflect rate adjustments consistent with the negotiated settlement; finding the rates to be set by tariffs to be just and reasonable and in the public interest; establishing a process for renegotiating the RRM Tariff in 2017; requiring the company to reimburse cities' reasonable ratemaking expenses. The motion to approve was made by Councilman Terry Waldren, seconded by Councilman Brandt Underwood. The motion carried unanimously.

10. Building Review Committee (BRC)

The Building Review Committee met on February 27, 2017 to consider plans for a new home at 9 Mescalero (4 Arapaho). The builder is Craig Ray. The plans were approved subject to an approval for a variance.

Department Reports

Administration: Elena Quintanilla reported the following:

- ❖ A City Election will take place on May 6, 2017, and Ransom Canyon residents may vote at the Lubbock Elections Office at 1308 Crickets Avenue, or at the Roosevelt Clubhouse. Ransom Canyon, New Deal, and Roosevelt ISD are the only entities in the County who are holding elections.
- ❖ Elena will be out of the office on vacation beginning Wednesday – Friday of this week for Spring Break.
- ❖ The Quarterly Texas Municipal League Region 3 Meeting will take place on Thursday, March 30, 2017, at the Scottish Rite Learning Center. The deadline to submit a reservation is Friday, March 24, 2017.
- ❖ A draft of the Strategic Plan has been provided to the City Council, and all comments from City Council members need to be submitted by Friday, March 31, 2017.
- ❖ There was no City Council correspondence this month.

Court Report: Gary Bellair reported the following:

- ❖ The Judge stated that one of the time payments was completed.
- ❖ A former resident has demanded a jury trial, and she has already had one in the past. The Judge will send a letter providing her with her options which may include a show-cause hearing.
- ❖ There was a new failure to stop citation that was issued by the Police Department.
- ❖ The Judge and Municipal Court Clerk are continuing to meet on a monthly basis.

Operations: Harold Needham reported the following:

- ❖ The construction of the City Hall will begin within the next fifteen days.
- ❖ The chemicals have been ordered for mosquito spraying.

Police: James Hill reported the following:

- ❖ James reported that the Police Department issued nine warnings, one citation, handled one accident, and ran ten people out of the Canyon that were trespassing. The trespassers were fishing in the Lake.

Fire: Rand McPherson reported the following:

- ❖ The City of Lubbock has not placed its truck in the City of Lubbock Auction to date. The truck is not in service.

- ❖ There were three EMS calls. One of the calls was in Slaton. Another call was a kid on a dirt bike that was involved in an accident. Another resident was running a high temperature.
- ❖ There were no fire calls.
- ❖ The Pancake Breakfast is tentatively scheduled for April 22, 2017.
- ❖ Rand reported that we need to contact the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality regarding the burning of any cattails or grass surrounding the Island.

Library: Elena Quintanilla reported the following for Angie Fikes:

- ❖ She is digitizing the Library System and placing bar codes on the books.
- ❖ The Library will go over budget this year in order to clear out the funds in the Scholarship Fund.
- ❖ The Library is hosting activities for Earth Week.

11. Property Owner's Association (POA) Report and Citizen Comments:

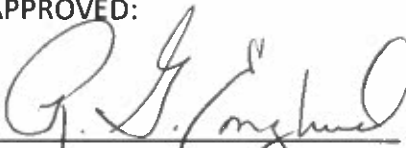
- ❖ James reminded everyone that the Annual Garage Sale in the Canyon is taking place on April 8, 2017.
- ❖ Linda Williams reported that the Chapel Board will host Deb Durbin as their Bible study speaker on April 3, 2017. The topic is about Christ and the Passover which discusses the traditions of Jesus as Messiah. The Chapel will also hold a hot dog and bake sale at the Fire Station during the Annual Garage Sale event.
- ❖ Thanks to Ron Cox for the articles in the Slatonite.
- ❖ Ron Cox also mentioned that the Property Owner's Association held a successful strategic planning event where approximately thirty people volunteered to get involved in the POA. Ron also thanked the Police Department for enforcing the law, particularly traffic laws.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 p.m. was made by Mayor Pro Tem Jana Trew, and it was seconded by Councilman Brandt Underwood; motion carried unanimously.

These minutes were approved on the 11th day of April, 2017.

APPROVED:



 Robert Englund, Mayor

ATTEST:



 Elena Quintanilla, City Secretary